

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 807

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ben Langford.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ben Langford of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Langford was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on September 5, 1923, in Lena, Mississippi, Ben Langford attended Northeast Mississippi Junior College following his graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, following graduation, he served with acumen and alacrity at the Tennessee Valley Authority; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Langford bravely served his country as a proud member of the United States Navy during World War II; he was part of the first class to use radar and was assigned to the attack transport ship the USS Doyen; and

WHEREAS, Ben Langford attended Colgate College for officer training school, but at the end of the war he was transferred to Union University; and

WHEREAS, he worked assiduously for his uncle at the Western Auto Store in Jackson, where he indulged his love of people and helping customers; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected businessman and community leader, Ben Langford was elected as a Jackson City Commissioner from 1955 until 1959, and from 1963 until 1988; he served as the commissioner of education, parks and recreation, and public property; and

WHEREAS, a public servant of the highest order, Mr. Langford was responsible for the implementation of many of the parks and public buildings in Jackson; and

WHEREAS, he assisted in the desegregation of schools in Jackson, consolidating the mostly white Jackson High School with predominately black Merry High School, forming Jackson Central-Merry High School; in addition, he further increased the notion of unity by having a bridge built over North Royal Street to join the two campuses so students could share one school; and

WHEREAS, Ben Langford was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church in Jackson, which he served faithfully since December 15, 1946, in a variety of capacities, including as deacon and as a member and chairman of the finance committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Langford was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ben Langford is survived by his loving wife of thirty-five years, Eva; his children and their spouses, Beth Rainey and her husband, Brad, Lynn Burgher and her husband, Tim, Ben Langford, Jr., and his wife, Kayle, and Charles Bradley Langford and his wife, Nancy; his two stepsons and their spouses, Thomas Griffith and his wife, Betty, and Robin Griffith and his wife, Peggy; and twelve grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Langford leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ben Langford, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Langford.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

